

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9339

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2770

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: FEB. 13, THE 44TH DAY OF THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF PHNOM PENH 2686

1. SUMMARY. THE KC HEAVILY ATTACKED PEAM REANG ISLAND. A FANK BATTALION PUSHED TO WITHIN THREE KM OF THE FALLEN CHOKEPPOINT BASE AT DEI DOS WITH NO REPORTED CONTACT. THE SEVENTH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH AGAIN NOTED HEAVY ENEMY ACTIVITY. THE THIRD DIVISION LOGISTICS BASE AT KAMBOL WEST OF THE CAPITAL TOOK TWENTY 82 MM MORTAR ROUNDS WITH EIGHT WOUNDED. EIGHT ROCKETS FELL AT POCHENTONG WITH ONE WOUNDED AND TWO LANDED ON THE CAPITAL'S NORTHERN FRINGES KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING FIVE. ACTIVITY HEATED UP AT THE TAKEO ENCLAVE. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAVY GROUND ATTACKS MARKED ENEMY ACTIVITY AT PEAM REANG ISLAND ON THE LOWER MEKONG. FANK LOST SEVEN KILLED AND 26 WOUNDED. EARLIER, ATTACKS BY FIRE FEB 12 HAD WOUNDED 40 AND DESTROYED THREE OF FANK'S 81MM MORTARS.

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A BATTALION OF FRIENDLY REINFORCEMENTS LANDED THIS MORNING

BRINGING FANK STRENGTH ON THE ISLAND UP TO THREE BATTALIONS, OF WHICH TWO ARE UNDERSTRENGTH. THE KC ARE KNOWN TO HAVE LARGE, UNCOMMITTED FORCES NEARBY. THE BATTALION WHICH LANDED SOUTH OF THE FALLEN MEKONG CHOKEPOINT BASE AT DEI DOS MTAED TO WITHIN THREE KM OF ITS OBJECTIVE WITH NO REPORTED CONTACT.

3. IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, THE KC KEPT UP HEAVY, STEADY PRESSURE WITH GROUND ATTACKS AND HEAVY CALIBER ATTACKS BY FIRE. THE ACTIVITY INDICATES A LARGE ENEMY PRESENCE FACING FANK'S SEVENTH AND REINFORCING ELEMENTS.

4. TAKEO CITY RECEIVED 10 ROUNDS OF 75 MM RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE AND 15 ROUNDS OF 105MM HOWITZER DURING THE NIGHT. THE ENCLAVE ALSO NOTED NUMEROUS GROUND ATTACKS ALL AROUND ITS PERIMETER.

5. TWENTY 82 MM MORTAR ROUNDS (MAX RANGE ABOUT 3 KM) HIT AROUND THE THIRD DIVISION LOGISTICS BASE WEST OF PHNOM PENH. THE MORTARS INJURED EIGHT PEOPLE. EIGHT ROCKETS EXPLODED AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT, WOUNDING ONE, AND TWO OTHERS HIT AT KM NO. 6 ON ROUTE 5 NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, KILLING ONE PERSON AND INJURING FIVE.

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